

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS

Hearing Date: March 18, 2021 8:00 AM

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COMMENTS FOR: HB 574

Kellye Duncan

self

San Angelo, TX

Dear Committee members,

Election integrity is vital to every community & county across our great state regardless of party preference. We must maintain our voter ID laws and have other means to maintain the truth in all elections. If we must show an ID to purchase beer, wine, alcohol, tobacco, BOARD AN AIRPLANE, cash a check or any other multiple times, we must prove who we are when voting. I would hate to learn that my mother had voted - she has been dead since 1997. I would hate to learn that my neighbor had voted even though he is not a registered voter. Please review with your heart the logical and legal methods to ensure our elections are true and fair. Thank you for your service to our great state of Texas!

Cheryl Johnson, Galveston County Tax Assessor Collector & Voter Registrar

Galveston County Tax Office and voters of county

Galveston, TX

HB 574 represents an improvement to current law that would provide certainty to the Texas election process. That the offense is raised to a second degree felony from a Class A misdemeanor will surely discourage those who have no respect for the sanctity of voting from pursuing actions that could alter the outcome of an election.

carl ralph

Self

Anna, TX

The foundation of a constitutional republic is the voice of those governed through the election process. In order to ensure the continuation of a valid representative government, Texas MUST take every precaution to insure the integrity of the vote. HB 574 is a strong step in that direction and must be supported and approved.

Pam Bishop

concerned citizen I am a practicing RN

Livingston, TX

please do your part to get this bill out of committee and to the floor for a vote. This bill is 'the wall' needed to bring back confidence and integrity to our election system and our free voice by we the people

Yvonne Roberts

Self / Retired U.S. Navy Commander and Civil Engineer

Carthage, TX

I am writing in support of HB 574 which seeks to amend Section 276.013 of the Election Code. Specifically, HB 574 would expand the definition of election fraud by making it an offense to alter vote counts or to fail to properly record votes. It is unfortunate that election volunteers and officials cannot be counted upon to be impartial and honest as they receive/count votes. Hopefully, the addition of these additional offenses and increasing the penalty will make people think twice before they do something fraudulent.

Karen Pelphrey, Ms
self/retired
Lubbock, TX

Texas Committee,

Please secure our elections. My husband died June 25, 2019. Before the end of the year I took a copy of his death certificate to Lubbock County registrar. About 4 weeks before the 2020 November election I received 2 mail in ballots one with my name one with his name. In about another 10 days I received 2 copies of forms to request absentee ballots one in my name and one in his name. I don't know if I could have falsely filled all these and and voted 4 times. I just discarded them and voted in person. However something just did not seem right; we had never received any kind of ballots through the mail before. This is obviously a difficult procedure to investigate as so many including the Supreme Court won't review it. It is the states right to handle fair, legal elections. Please be diligent about this issue.

Chris Edmiston
Self
Austin, TX

I SUPPORT HB574.

Election integrity is critical, and counting votes properly is paramount. Increasing the penalty is a must as the current penalties are not sufficient to deter bad actors.

Melisha Corbitt
Self
Austin, TX

HB 574 will help with election integrity and I support this bill.

Eric Graf
Self
Ivanhoe, TX

Please bring this bill up for committee vote. Elections in Texas are critical!

Sandra Kelly
self
Denton, TX

What fraud? Please specify and list for the citizens of Texas: Dates, times, location (city or state), affected voters and all other related details to specific incident.

If there is substantiated voter fraud name it by incident for Texas voters.

There is no indication of election fraud in Texas and no election fraud in other states that can be cited as examples indicating any need for limitations on voting. The opportunity to vote should be expanded, not reduced. We saw this accusation disproven in multiple courts and by the Supreme Court.

Using any false statement, much less 'fraudulence in elections' is dishonorable and unworthy of your office.

We pay taxes, we invest in government. We should be allowed to have a voice in our system. That is the fundamental premise of our nation

Our system of government demands active participation from citizens to direct the future of our country. We should all want as many as possible who are eligible to have a voice in the direction of our nation.

It is your responsibility to ensure and protect the right to vote and the access to that vote is protected for everyone. Voter disenfranchisement is a disgrace to our state and to our country.

Please stop all actions related to voter suppression. Vote to expand voting. Vote to uphold our system of government, not destroy it.

I am deeply disappointed in anyone, any American citizen and certainly anyone that took the oath of office, who seeks to restrict access to the right to vote. Every citizen should be.

Thank you.

Robert Scott

Self - Retired

COLLEYVILLE, TX

I object to this bill as a limitation to voting rights and application of more open elections. This practice is in place in a number of states and there have been no documented cases of unwelcome outcomes (including fraud). I encourage extension and openness in voting registration and voting practices. When more Texans vote, democracy wins.

Robert Scott

Self - Retired

Colleyville, TX

I object to this bill as a limitation to voting rights and application of more open elections. This practice is in place in a number of states and there have been no documented cases of unwelcome outcomes (including fraud). I encourage extension and openness in voting registration and voting practices. When more Texans vote, democracy wins.

Tanesa Lee

Self

Garland, TX

From what I have read, the additional measures and verbiage do not serve to protect election integrity, they are only to intimidate both poll workers and voters. In other matters, we see that "increasing criminal penalties; creating criminal offenses" as the bill states does not deter criminals. Making it harder to vote does not deter fraud. Texas already has guidelines in place for mail in ballots and early voting that works. Please do not jump on the bandwagon of unsubstantiated claims of voter fraud. The Texas AG offered money for evidence of voter and NONE was presented.

Charles Cox

Charles G Cox, MD

LAGO VISTA, TX

We are now seeing the results of major election fraud on the national level. We can't let this happen in Texas. It is critical that Texas follow other states and set the example for secure elections, otherwise the republic is lost. Please vote to approve HB 574 which will strengthen the penalty for many activities resulting in fraudulent vote results. It's now or never.

Larry Ringler

Self-retired

Portland, TX

I fully support passage of this bill to strengthen punishment for tampering with votes. Please vote for this bill.

Judith Farrell

Self, retired small business owner

Lubbock, TX

TO The Honorable Committee on election integrity:

As a citizen of these great United States and the great state of Texas, I am deeply concerned about the confidence we all should have in fair and legitimate elections in our country and state. I am a retired small business owner who has come out of retirement to join others in small activist groups of citizens who are trying to push back against the powers and forces which are trying to destroy our republic. I have 7 grandchildren who will feel the total loss of freedom and protection of their rights unless we act now.

I know you understand the gravity of the situation and I respectfully encourage a very strong version of HB 574 and any other supporting bills before the House. After the nightmare of the 2020 election, which was stolen from President Trump, all Americans whether democrat or republican should be extremely concerned, angry and fearful of the "writing on the wall". If we can have no confidence that our voting rights and our votes are being protected, the voice of the American people will be silenced, and we will have lost our country and our way of life. It is THAT critical! We must not let this happen.

Please don't let them remove strict voter identity requirements and allow voting machines whose results can be manipulated or whose results are being tabulated in another country. That is lunacy! Please don't let them silence the will of the American people any longer. Please protect voting integrity for us and all future generations of Americans before it is too late! I encourage the passage of a strong version of this bill and any supporting bills and the creation of severe criminal penalties for anyone attempting to defraud the election process. It is your solemn duty and many Texans are praying for you and the passage of HB 574.

Thank you and may God bless America!

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Farrell

DONNA EYLES

Self

CORPUS CHRISTI, TX

I believe there should definitely be more stringent penalties for fraud in the election process.

Please vote YES for HB 574.

Carol Ahlgren

self, retired

Round Rock, TX

I am against this HB. All the way to the Supreme Court it was proven there was little to no fraud in the 2020 election. You have created a problem in search of a solution.

McKenzie Chapa

Self

ORANGE GROVE, TX

As a concerned citizen, I think the penalty of unlawfully messing with voting should be severe, since consequences of elections are severe. Please vote YES to HR 574 to help deter people from illegally swaying elections.

Victoria Hanson

Self - Retired

Corpus Christi, TX

I support increasing the legal ramifications for voter fraud from a misdemeanor to a felony. I believe the threat of spending significant time in prison and imposing possible monetary consequences for voter fraud will increase the security of every vote. Please vote for this bill.

eric mann

self

Dallas, TX

oppose

Julie Garcia

self

Corpus Christi, TX

Please vote for this! Higher penalties should be assessed for election fraud. There needs to be more discouragement to deter

people willing to commit election fraud. Tampering with votes should be a felony.

scott mesmer

self

corpus christi, TX

Election fraud strikes at the heart of one legitimate vote per one legitimate citizen. No one should have the ability to nullify my vote via any means possible. This bill pita the necessary teeth in the legislation
Please vote for HB 574

Cynthia Gaskill

Self

Magnolia, TX

I support HB 574. Election fraud is extremely important to the foundation of our Republic. Texas must ensure that fraud never takes place during any election in Texas. I support the added language in this bill and I support making it a felony instead of a misdemeanor for those who commit election fraud. This is a well written Bill which should become law to ensure election integrity in Texas. Thank you for reading my comments and recognizing my support of HB 574. Thank you.

Eileen Chapman

Self. Retired

Lumberton, TX

Please do everything possible to stop election fraud. Makes ALL election fraud a FELONY!

Kevin Williams

Self, Retired

The Woodlands, TX

I support strengthening Election Integrity in Texas - and I support HB 574 and making it a felony to commit election fraud.

I also support other bills intended to STRENGTHEN the integrity of all our elections in Texas, so that the debacle we witnessed nationwide last November 2020 will NEVER happen again.

Cinde Weatherby, Voting Rights/Election Law Ch.

League of Women Voters of Texas

Austin, TX

Opposition HB 574

-- LWVTX opposes HB 574 because imposing these criminal penalties could have a chilling effect on the willingness of individuals to assist a vote count.

-- For example, Section 65.009 of the Texas Election Code requires evaluation of the voter's intent when a ballot is irregularly marked in order to determine if the ballot should be counted. This evaluation is necessarily based on a review of the entire ballot that, understandably, may result in disagreement. Changes in the statute proposed in HB 574 could turn discussions over

disagreements into threats of imprisonment. Citizens may be unwilling to serve as counting officers if fulfilling their duties subjects them to possible criminal liability.

Aaron Ramirez

Self

Corpus Christi, TX

Making this a felony would definitely Limit the possibilities of fraud. To think this was just a misdemeanor, is shocking! I support the passage of this bill and so should you. My vote matters, just as much as your vote does! Please support this bill!

John Takacs

Self

Dripping Springs, TX

Election Integrity is paramount to insure citizens can rely on election results. To that end every step necessary to prevent fraud while still assuring all eligible voters can exercise that right. To that end processes should be put in place to clear voter rolls regularly to purge those no longer eligible, voter ID laws should be upheld and strengthened as necessary again, while doing every thing possible for those eligible to vote can and finally the penalties for voter fraud of any kind should be severe to deter anyone from attempting to commit election fraud.

Cynthia Smith

American Citizen and Resident of the State of Texas ---Self Retired

Vidor, TX

I shall be represented by the State of Texas to comply with the support of this bill. I am fully convinced that this bill should be supported!

Leland Chandler, COTA

Personal

Cushing, TX

Support HB 574

brad hodes

self

austin, TX

FOR HB574.

MICHAEL FOSSUM

self, retired

Austin, TX

I ask that the Elections Committee approve and vote out of committee HB 574. HB 574 will help prevent election fraud in Texas. This is essential as in many states the 2020 election for President, Vice President, and the Georgia senate runoffs were riddled with fraud.

The legacy media and the Washington establishment denies there was any fraud. However, you can see evidence of this fraud documented by Peter Navarro's report "The Immaculate Deception." The report is in 3 volumes: Volume 1-Immaculate Deception (detailed analysis of various fraud in several states), Volume 2-Art Of The Steal (combined fraud methods tabulated in matrices), and Volume 3-Yes, President Trump Won (final report with total fraud tallies per state). The report can be found at <https://navarreport.com> . There is also an article at <https://www.frontpagemag.com/fpm/2020/12/yes-it-was-stolen-election-john-perazzo/> .

Please approve and vote out of committee HB 574. Thank you.

Zoila Vega

Self, retired

Austin, TX

I am requesting that the Elections Committee approve and vote out of committee HB 574. I find the results of the November 3rd general election to be suspect. I watched the hearings on the election at the legislatures of the swing states and was shocked by what I saw. I was also shocked that people in political office and the courts blocked any legitimate attempt to investigate possible fraud in the elections in all the swing states. Passing HB 574 will help prevent that from happening in Texas.

There are many people who do not believe that there was fraud in the 2020 election. If you feel that way, then you should watch Mike Lindell's documentary called "Absolute Proof" that shows that election fraud occurred all over the country on November 3rd. You can watch the video at: <https://michaeljindell.com/>. Pay particular attention to 1 hour and 36 minutes into the video which shows detailed proof of a massive cyber-attack by several foreign governments on the November 3rd election.

I ask you to approve and vote out of committee HB 574. Thank you.

Sandi Curtis

Self, retired

Willis, TX

We must make it a felony to commit election fraud

Jim Riley

Self

Houston, TX

A number of counties apparently failed to count valid write-in votes for President.

Would that be a felony?

You would have to be deliberately obtuse to not know that was happening.

Deborah Tagle

Self - Manager Operator Services ATT (ret)

Santa Fe, TX

I support this bill. I would like to believe, once again , ,that my vote actually counted.

Linda Maldonado

Self/Retired

San Antonio, TX

I do not support by 574 because there is no evidence that invalid votes have been counted and there is no evidence that valid votes have not been counted. This is a solution in search of a problem.

Seth Belt

Self

Quitman, TX

I support this bill. Elections are one of the most valuable things Americans have. The people require safe elections that are free from fraud and allow our voices to be heard.

Luz Escobedo

Self / homemaker

Donna, TX

Please let it all be more transparent.. What happened this passed election was a disgrace.. This should never happen again.. Thank you

Debby Efurd

Convention of States

Pittsburg, TX

I support this bill and urge senators to support as well

Jennifer Lane Lane

self

Denton, TX

I was shocked at the hectoring of Susanna Carranza that I witnessed during this meeting by Rep. Bonnen, who spoke on behalf of the League of Women Voters at the hearing this morning on this Bill. Ms. Carranza pointed out that, during the process of counting votes, election workers will go through an entire ballot and will sometimes disagree. She pointed out that this bill would have a chilling effect on the recruitment of election workers if they thought they might be accused of a felony, should they be involved in such a disagreement. There is a better way than creating intimidating penalties for actions that can easily be misinterpreted or misrepresented by others. Mr. Bonnen insulted Ms. Carranza who was there to deliver the stance of the League. Rather than address her point, he tried (unsuccessfully) to discredit her. Shame on him.

Pamela Oglesby

None

Cedar Park, TX

A true democracy should make every effort to minimize the obstacles to voting and maximize the turnout of eligible voters. I worked the election polls last fall and saw no evidence of voter fraud. If people didn't have the proper ID or failed to bring their mail in ballot to vote in person, they would return home and bring back the correct documents. It has become obvious that the efforts to further suppress the vote by creating more hurdles is ant-democracy and a power grab.

Kathy Williams

myself, retired

Austin, TX

Opposed, This bill unnecessarily increases criminal penalties and seems to invent situations that have rarely if ever happened. As with so many bills filed this year it is a solution searching for a problem. I have seen zero evidence or facts that support any such fraud happening. It would have a chilling effect both on voters and on election workers.

Maryela Garza

Self

Weslaco, TX

Please do your best to secure our voices come election time. Indict those breaking laws and assure there is voter if and integrity! Do not allow illegals, felons or 16 year olds cancel my vote!

Angelika Hoehner

Self/retired

Lorena, TX

I am writing in support of HB 574. I firmly endorse the strong penalty for engaging in any activity that alters the reporting of votes or the counting of votes. For the public to have confidence in our elections, we need to penalize the offenders with more than a slap on the wrist. A second degree felony will clearly send a message to any individual who might wish to engage in such illegal activities. I support this effort at preventing election fraud.

Cathy Jaster

retired

Georgetown, TX

Election law violations must have stiffer penalties. Anyone who is serious about stopping election fraud would support this bill. Anyone convicted of election fraud should lose their right to vote and their ability to work in elections. By committing election fraud, they showed they did not care about others right to vote.

Denice Carnes

Self

McAllen, TX

I support this bill. Election integrity is a must for Americans.

Jesse Suarez

Rabalais I&E Constructors

Corpus Christi, TX

Any bill that reduces the likelihood of my vote getting canceled has my support and this bill provides the punishment to make a potential offender think twice about committing election fraud. Please vote yes on HB 574.

Tanya Robertson

Republican Party of Texas

Taylor Lake Village, TX

Speaking in favor of HB 574: This bill aligns with the Republican Party of Texas's Election Integrity Legislative Priority that thousands of Republican convention state delegates would like to see achieved this session, along with millions of Republican Primary voters in 2018.

That 2018 Primary Ballot Prop reads:

Voter fraud should be a felony in Texas to help ensure fair elections.

Yes - 94.82%

No - 5.18%

This received the MOST 'YES' votes out of the eleven 2018 Republican Primary Ballot Props!

It is clear that Texans have been concerned about election integrity in Texas for a while now & are counting on our lawmakers to get this right.

We're respectfully asking Chairman Cain to bring this bill up for a committee vote & for the committee members to vote it favorably out of committee.

Thank you for your time & consideration!

Marcela Martinez

Self

Weslaco, TX

Nation wide voter fraud. I have to show my license and poll card when I vote and I vote at all elections. To hear what has transpired in 2020 is outrageous. I'm pissed to say the least!

Bianca Gracia, Mrs

Latinos for America First, Latinos for Trump, Lideres de la Comunidad, and Americanos Conservative United

Pasadena, TX

Our organizations of over 10k membership and over 2k Hispanic Evangelical pastors support this bill

Carol Edwards

self / retired

Austin, TX

AGAINST!

Jennifer Lane

Self

Denton, TX

Correction to my earlier comment regarding the hectoring of League of Women Voters representative Susanna Carranza. The committee member who did this was Rep. Schofield, not Rep. Bonnen. The behavior he exhibited toward Ms. Carranza and the League of Which men Voters was aggressive and unacceptable. He badgered her and tried to put words in her mouth rather than respond to the issues raised by the League regarding the potential chilling effect of the bill on prospective elections workers.

Diana Richards

Self - Communications Coordinator

Sherman, TX

FOR HB574: As a lifelong and multigenerational Texan, I was appalled to see the election fraud that surfaced right here in our own State. Those who commit voter fraud have never been worried about being held accountable to their crime. HB574 will expand the definition of voter fraud and increase the penalty to a felony charge. This increased penalty should deter future crime and hold those who do commit voter fraud at a proper level of accountability and justice. For these reasons, I ask for you to vote to pass HB574 out of Committee and support it being brought to the Full House Floor for approval.

Sylvia Randles

"self" retired

Kendalia, TX

I support this bill.

Brooke Gulley

Self

Sonora, TX

I am representing Latinos for Trump and Latinos for America First.

Mari Leon

Latinos for Trump

San Antonio, TX

I want my voice to be heard.
Stop Voting Fraud

Julia Dahlberg

Self

La Vernia, TX

I am providing public comment in support of HB 574. I am in support of increasing the criminal penalties for voter fraud and for including counting fraudulent votes or failing to include valid votes and any altering voting reports to the election code. Please vote to pass this bill out of committee.

Kathy Turner

self, retired

McGregor, TX

I support making election violations felonies.

Linda Perez

None

McAllen, TX

Stop election fraud.
